Concession in bus fare to senior citizens

†*539. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving concession on ticket charges to the senior citizen for journey by bus, as is being done in air and rail journey;

(b) if so, whether Government have circulated this order to the Transport Ministries of the State Governments in this regard; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to provide such facility to the senior citizen of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI):

(a) Under Section 67 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the power for fixing of fares for stage carriages falls within the purview of State Governments.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Upgradation of Mandvi-Nalia-Narayan Sarovar Highway

*540. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government's request regarding upgradation of Mandvi-Nalia-Narayan Sarovar Highway into a National Highway has been agreed to by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The proposal for upgradation of Mandvi-Nalia-Narayan Sarovar Highway into National Highway would be considered alongwith similar proposals received from other State Governments after the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan and availability of funds, keeping in view the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways, traffic needs and *inter-se* priority.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Export price for coir

3791. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to phase out Minimum Export Price (MEP) for coir;

(b) if so, reasons therefore;

(c) whether small sector and workers have opposed gradual withdrawal of MEP; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure that withdrawal of Minimum Export Price does not have an adverse impact on coir export?

ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to remove all restrictions in promoting exports of coir and coir products, the Minimum Export Price (MEP) regime has been withdrawn.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Promotional efforts like market development through participation in exhibitions/fairs abroad, Study tours, Buyer-Sellers